
3d FEBRUARY, 1803.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Saturday next.

A B I L L

To provide for the granting of Clearances to Ships or Vessels of the United States, lying in the river Mississippi, south of the southern boundary of the United States, and therein to amend an act, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Collection of Duties on Imports and Tonnage," and for other purposes.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,
3 That whenever articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of
4 the United States, shall be intended to be exported from any of
5 the ports of the United States within the Mississippi, by the way of
6 New Orleans, to any foreign port, the identity of such articles
7 shall be ascertained and certified in the same manner and by the
8 same officers as has been provided, or hereafter may be made,
9 for the transportation of the same articles to any of the ports of
10 the United States, without the Mississippi.

1 SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for
 3 the collector of the customs for the district of Mississippi, to grant
 3 to any ship or vessel owned by citizens of the United States, [laden
 4 with articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said
 5 states and actually] lying in some part of the river Mississippi,
 6 south of the southern boundary of the United States, a clearance
 7 in the same manner as if such ship or vessel was lying within the
 8 said district, which clearance shall be of the form following, to wit :

9 “ District of Mississippi, fs.

10 Port of Fort Adams,

11 These are to certify to all whom it doth concern, That

12 master or commander of the

13 burthen tons or thereabouts, mounted with

14 guns (if any) navigated with men built,

15 now lying in the river Mississippi, out of the limits of the

16 United States, and bound for [having on

17 board (here specify the articles if required) being of the

18 growth, produce, or manufacture of the United States, or

19 (if no specification be required) being laden with articles of

20 the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United States]

21 hath here cleared his said vessel according to law :

22 Given under my hand and seal, at the custom house of

23 Fort Adams, this day of one

24 thousand eight hundred and in the year

25 of the independence of the United States of America.”

26 *Provided nevertheless,* That such clearance shall not be grant-
 27 ed until the identity of the articles laden on board such ship or
 28 vessel, as being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the
 29 United States, shall be established to the satisfaction of the said
 30 collector, either by the exhibition of a certificate to that effect,
 31 from the consul, vice-consul, or other authorized agent of the
 32 United States, residing at or near New Orleans on the said river,
 33 or otherwise: *And provided also,* That before the departure of
 34 such ship or vessel for any foreign port or place without the said
 35 river, it shall be the duty of the master or commander thereof, to
 36 exhibit such clearance to the said consul, vice-consul, or other au-
 37 thorized agent of the United States, who shall certify thereon,
 38 under his consular seal, if he be satisfied that the state of the cargo
 39 at the time of such exhibition, correspond therewith, that such is
 40 the case; or if the whole or any part thereof shall have been
 41 unladen, or otherwise charged, so that the same do not actually
 42 agree with the tenor of such clearance, he shall so state the
 43 same.

1 SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the consul, vice-con-
 2 sul, or other authorized agent of the United States, residing at
 3 New Orleans, or at such other place of deposit on the banks of
 4 the Mississippi, south of the southern boundary of the United
 5 States, as may be assigned by virtue of the treaty of San Lorenzo,
 6 shall be entitled to receive from the captains or owners of Ameri-
 7 can vessels, two dollars for each certificate, he shall sign, certifying

8 that the articles contained in such certificate, are of the growth,
 9 produce, or manufacture of the United States ; and he shall also
 10 be authorized to employ a proper person to attend to the landing
 11 and loading of such articles, whose duty therein, and compen-
 12 sation, shall be the same as those of an inspector of customs in one
 13 of the ports of the United States, which compensation shall be
 14 considered as a charge against the revenue, and defrayed by the
 15 collector for the district of Mississippi, out of the monies received by
 16 him on account of the duties on tonnage and merchandize.

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